

HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY  
(NAAC ACCREDITED "A" GRADE UNIVERSITY)  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDIES  
SHIMLA-171005

No. 1-60/2024-HPU(DS)-

Dated: Shimla-5, the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2025


NOTIFICATION

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor is pleased to approve the HPU Guidelines for the PhD Course Work (2024-2025) as follows:

1. PhD Course Work will consist of Three courses (12 credits)
  - I. Course-1: Research and Publication Ethics, RPE (common for all HPU's PhD programs) with a Credit weightage of 2. \*
  - II. Course-2: Research Methodology (Discipline-wise) with a Credit weightage of 5. The course will consist of five modules/units.
  - III. Course-3: Discipline-specific research-oriented Elective course with a credit weightage of 5. The course will consist of five modules/units.
2. PhD coursework classes will be held in the afternoon session.
3. Evaluation Scheme: At the end of the course, a final written examination of 100 Marks will be conducted.
  - a. Students with at least 75% attendance will be eligible for the final written examination.
  - b. The exam will be conducted for a three-hour duration.
4. Note for Paper Setting (course 2-3) \*: There will be 11 questions covering all the units. The first 10 questions of explanatory answers (1, 2, 3, ... 10) of 12 marks each will consist of one question from each unit, with internal choice provided, meaning there will be two questions from each unit (5X2=10). The students will be required to attempt one question from each unit. The 11<sup>th</sup> question will consist of 10 short answer type questions using Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, ... x) each with 5 marks, covering all the units. The students will be required to attempt any eight questions out of ten.

**Notes**

- a. \*The course & scheme for Course-1: Research and Publication Ethics has been notified vide Notification No. 7-1/2024-HPU(Acad.) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2025.
- b. These Guidelines will be applicable from the session 2024-25 onwards (beginning from the batch admitted in November-December 2024).
- c. These guidelines are issued w.r.t. Notification No. 7-1/2024-HPU(Acad.) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2025.
- d. The students can opt for MOOCs/SWAYAM and other accredited online platforms courses, with prior approval of relevant bodies.


  
Dean of Studies

Endst. No.: Even

Dated: Shimla-5, the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Copy for Information and necessary action to: -

1. All the Deans of Faculties, HPU, Shimla-5.
2. All the Chairpersons/Directors of the Teaching Departments/Institutes, HP University, Shimla-5.
3. Guard file

  
Dean of Studies

Dated: 03 FEB 2025

**NOTIFICATION**

On: the recommendation of the Deans Committee in its meeting held on 02-12-2024, the Standing Committee of Academic Council vide item No. 3 in its meeting held on 15-01-2025 approved the following:

The Research and Publication Ethics Course of 2 credits (as per Annexure) will be common for all HPU'S PhD programs. Department/Centre/Institute shall develop and approve two more courses of 5 credits each part of Ph.D course work. Thus, there will be a total of three courses in all PhD coursework of HPU applicable from the session 2024-25 onwards (beginning from the batch admitted (Directly) in November 2024, as under:

1. Research and Publication Ethics (common for all HPU's PhD programs) with a credit weightage of 2.
2. Research Methodology (Discipline-wise) with a Credit weightage of 5. The course will consist of five modules/units.
3. Discipline-specific research-oriented Elective course with a Credit weightage of 5. The course will consist of five modules/units.

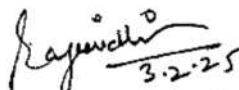
The student can opt for (all three courses) MOOCs/SWAYAM and other accredited online platforms courses, with prior approval of BoS.

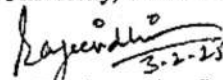
All departments must prepare & approve the syllabi accordingly at the earliest from relevant bodies.

Endst. No. Even.

Copy for information and further necessary action:

1. The Dean of Studies, H.P. University, Shimla-5.
2. All the Deans, H.P. University, Shimla-5.
3. The Chairmen/Chairpersons/Directors of the Teaching Department, H.P. University, Shimla-5.
4. Guard file.

  
Deputy Registrar (Acad)  
H.P. University, Shimla-5.  
Dated: 03 FEB 2025

  
Deputy Registrar (Acad)

**Research and Publication Ethics**  
Course Code: RPE-PhD  
(Common for all PhD students)

Credit weightage: 2  
Max. Marks: 50

**Course description**

This course has a total of 6 units focusing on the basics of philosophy of science and ethics, research integrity, and publication ethics. Hands-on sessions are designed to identify research misconduct and predatory publications. Indexing and citation databases, open-access publications, research metrics (citations, h-index, Impact Factor, etc.), and plagiarism tools will be discussed in this course.

**Objectives**

- Promote the importance of research integrity.
- Discuss the principles of publication ethics.
- Educate on identifying research misconduct and predatory publishing.
- Discuss indexing and citation databases.
- Provide information on open-access publications and research metrics.
- Introduce various plagiarism detection tools.

**Evaluation**

Continuous assessment will be conducted through tutorials, assignments, quizzes, and group discussions. At the end of the course, a final written examination of 50 Marks will be conducted.

- Students who have at least 75% attendance in classes will be considered eligible for the final written examination.
- The exam will be conducted for a three-hour duration.

**Note for Paper Setting**

There will be 7 questions covering all the units. The first six questions (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6) of 6 marks each will consist of one question from each unit, with internal choice provided, meaning there will be two questions from each unit. The 7<sup>th</sup> question will consist of 10 short answer type questions using Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, ... x) each with 2 marks. There will be at least one question from each unit, and students will be required to attempt any seven questions out of ten.

**Unit 01: Philosophy and Ethics**

- Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
- Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgments and reactions

**Unit 02: Scientific Conduct**

- Ethics with respect to science and research
- Intellectual honesty and research integrity
- Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication, and Plagiarism (FFP)
- Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing
- Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

**Unit 03: Publication Ethics**

- Publication ethics: definition, introduction, and importance
- Best practices/standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME, etc.
- Conflicts of interest
- Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types
- Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship
- Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals

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## 7. Predatory publishers and journals

### Unit 04: Open Access Publishing

1. Open-access publications and initiatives
2. SHERPA/ROMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies
3. Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU
4. Journal finder/journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal, etc.

### Unit 05: Publication Misconduct

#### A. Group Discussions

1. Subject-specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship
2. Conflicts of interest
3. Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad

#### B. Software tools

Use of plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund, and other open-source software tools

### Unit 06: Databases and Research Metrics

#### A. Databases

1. Indexing databases
2. Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus, etc.

#### B. Research Metrics

1. Impact Factor of journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite Score
2. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics

### Suggested Readings

- Beall, J. (2012). Predatory publishers are corrupting open access. *Nature*, Vol. 489(7415), 179. <https://doi.org/10.1038/489179a>.
- Bird, A. (2006). *Philosophy of Science*. Routledge.
- Bretag, Tracey (2016). *The Handbook of Academic Integrity*. Springer.
- Chaddah, P. (2018). *Ethics in Competitive Research: Do not get scooped; do not get Plagiarized*. ISBN:978-9387480865.
- Grudniewicz, Agnes, D. Moher, Kelly D. Cobey+32 authors (2019). Predatory journals: no definition, no defense. *Nature*, Vol. 576.
- Indian National Science Academy (2019). *Ethics in Science Education, Research and Governance* (2019). ISBN:978-81-939482-1-7. [http://www.insaindia.res.in/pdf/Ethics\\_Book.pdf](http://www.insaindia.res.in/pdf/Ethics_Book.pdf)
- Israel, Mark, Iain Hay (2006). *Research Ethics for Social Scientists*. London.
- Lang, James M. (2013). *Cheating Lessons: Learning from Academic Dishonesty*. Harvard University Press.
- MacIntyre, Alasdair (1967). *A Short History of Ethics*. London.
- National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and Institute of Medicine. (2009). *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research*. Third Edition. National Academies Press.
- Resnik, D. B. (2011). *What is ethics in research & why is it important*. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, 1-10. <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics/whatis/index.cfm>
- Whitley Jr., Bernard E. & Patricia Keith-Spiegel (2001). *Academic Dishonesty: An Educator's Guide*. Psychology Press.

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